

**City of Belmont  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 12, 2017  
One Twin Pines Lane, City Council Chambers**

**CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Foehr, Mittelstadt, Fox, Block, Bortoli, Michaels,  
Raddavero, Fine and Cotten

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Parks and Recreation Director Gervais, Recreation  
Coordinator De Lara and Administrative Assistant Saggau

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Led by Chair Foehr.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/AGENDA AMENDMENTS**

Commissioner Mittelstadt noted Mayor Stone expressed appreciation to the Commission for their work on the Barrett Community Center Dog issue.

Commissioner Mittelstadt reported on the Park Boosters Concert Series.

Parks & Recreation Director Gervais announced a new program for teens - Thursday Night Lights at Barrett Community Center.

Parks and Recreation Director Gervais noted the following:

- The Fall Activity Guide would be out on August 1
- The August Parks & Recreation Commission meeting is canceled

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

No items.

**ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

**Appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to Select a Member of the Senior Advisory Committee**

Parks and Recreation Director Gervais explained the By-Laws of the Senior Advisory Committee call for the Parks & Recreation Commission to select a member-at-large for this Committee. Two individuals have applied for a vacancy and staff is requesting there be an Ad Hoc Committee of the Parks & Recreation Commission to interview them and come back to the Commission with a recommendation.

Commissioners Block, Mittelstadt and Bortoli volunteered to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee.

## **Discussion of the Department's Social Media Outreach and Website**

Recreation Coordinator De Lara gave a report on the Parks and Recreation Department's social media and website outreach to the community. Topics covered included:

- My Belmont App
- Facebook
- Google
- Nextdoor
- Twitter
- Yelp
- Wedding Wire
- Meetup.com
- Special Events – press release list

Recreation Coordinator De Lara noted she serves on a Cross-Departmental Public Outreach Committee which will work on the social media policy and improving the City's website.

Commissioners provided comments and suggestions:

- Not require login to get My Belmont notifications
- Consolidate home page on my Belmont app with categories
- Carlmont High School Journalism students may be able to assist with videos
- Instagram worthwhile especially for teens
- Check if possible to change Belmont Parks & Recreation account with Twitter so that possible to connect with "Belmont" instead of "Belmont Parks"
- Encourage likes on Facebook
- Surveys can be done on Facebook
- Link Instagram with Facebook
- Be more focused on website to provide quick access
- Consider pushing fun events on social media
- Have YAC create videos to post on Instagram
- Determine what works best in each venue

## **Status of the Sports Complex Synthetic Turf Project and South Field Improvements**

Parks and Recreation Director Gervais reviewed the background and the current status of proposed projects at the Belmont Sports Complex. He explained the benefits of installing synthetic turf. Parks and Recreation Director Gervais reported the Department is proposing to install synthetic turf on the North Field only at this time. The South Field would be considered for turfing at a later date but other improvements are being pursued which include replacing the scoreboard, adding netting along the right field line and expanding the backstop to accommodate Little League use of the South Field.

Parks and Recreation Director Gervais reviewed the preliminary design for the North Field that was approved by the City Council and noted that the City Council has given direction to proceed with the completing the design, environmental compliance and permitting for this project.

Steve Vega, President of Belmont Babe Ruth Baseball spoke in favor of the project for the outfield but he was not in favor of replacing the dirt and grass infield and explained the reasons natural grass turf is preferred by baseball players. He added the Northern California Babe Ruth Tournament has been held in Belmont and he is unsure this will return if the field becomes synthetic turf.

A majority of Commissioners expressed support for the proposed project and provided comments including the following:

- Netting on side of the softball field is good safety feature
- Netting needed for bike bridge
- Installing fence and locking the North Field could prohibit drop-in use
- Lighting needs to consider visibility of baseballs
- Check if there is a way to expedite construction timeline
- Playground could be redesigned possibly to a small pump track
- If field is fenced provide more gates for access
- Questioned if possible to consider the alternative plans that would be preferred by baseball players.

Commissioner Bortoli expressed concern with the design approved by the City Council. He noted the North Field is the only field large enough for teenaged baseball players and there were other options that would have allowed the dirt infield to remain. He questioned the number of soccer players that would need the larger soccer field and emphasized the reasons natural turf is needed for baseball.

It was requested that Consultants give a report to the Commission on lighting and infield material options.

## **OTHER BUSINESS / UPDATES**

### **Department Reports**

Parks and Recreation Director Gervais reported on the following:

- Davey Glen Opening Day possibly in September
- Novartis Volunteer work at library
- Changes to the Tree Ordinance
- Potential Development off of Bishop Road
- Staff Shortage in Summer 2017
- Park Ordinance Change
- Public Works Department request for Park & Recreation Commission support of Grant Applications for two traffic improvement projects
- Serendipity School Project
- New Parks Employee Malcolm Ross
- General Plan Document Review
- Increase in maintenance efforts in FY18

## **Questions and Comments**

In response to Commissioner Mittelstadt's question staff explained that the Youth Commissioner's votes are separated from the rest of the Commission due to the change in the Ordinance and direction from the City Attorney.

Commissioner Michaels noted a community member questioned if it might be time to stain the Twin Pines Fence along Ralston Avenue.

Commissioner Michaels received an inquiry if it would be possible to stock fish in Water Dog Lake for fishing.

## **Future Agenda Items**

Twin Pines Park Committee  
Solar Projects and Energy Efficiency  
Electrification of Caltrain and Impact  
Scheduling Evening Recreation Classes  
Tree Outreach

### **Council and Commission Top Priorities**

- Athletic Field Improvements
- Barrett Community Center Master Plan

### **Council Other Priorities that include Parks and Recreation**

- Veterans Memorial
- Twin Pines Park Master Plan
- Tree Ordinance Update
- Resolve the Dog Issue at Barrett
- ADA Transition Plan
- Citywide Volunteer Program

### **Commission Other Priorities**

- Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan
- Dogs in Parks Policy
- Department Resources and Budget
- Open Space Maintenance and Management

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

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Jonathan Gervais  
Parks and Recreation Director